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水口尚樹
NAOKI MIZOGUCHI

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早乙女選手、ひたかくす

SAOTOME-SENSHU, HITAKAKUSU

1

水口尚樹

NAOKI MIZUGUCHI

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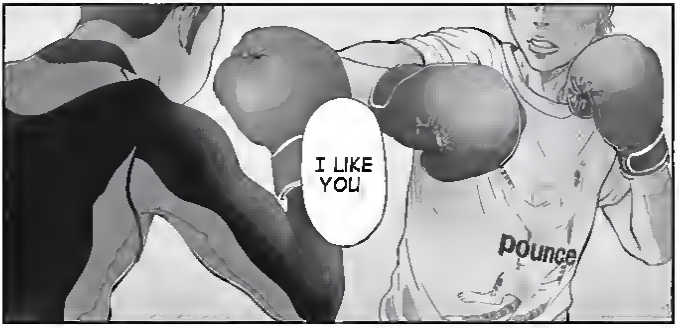
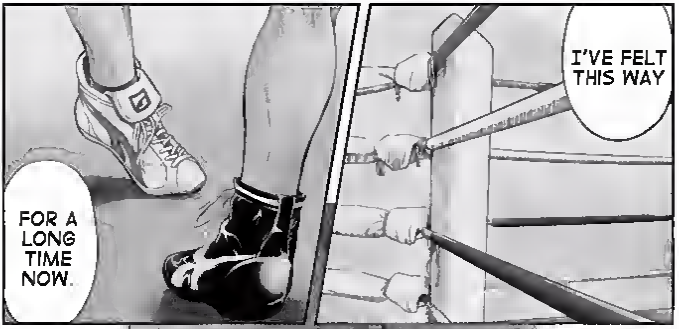
［第１話］


I LIKE YOU
Pounce

1


I'VE FELT THIS WAY
FOR A LONG TIME NOW.

SATORU-KUN...

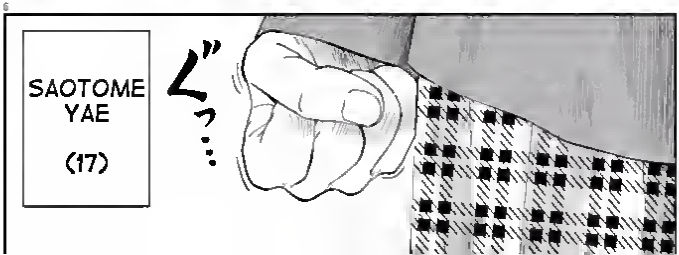
LET'S GO OUT.
［第1話］
早乙女選手告白す
SAOTOME-SENSHU CONFESSES

EH...?
BA DUMP
BA DUMP
TSUKISHIMA SATORU (16)
LIGHT FLYWEIGHT CLASS
YAE-SAN...
YA...

EH...!?
ペコ
I'M SORRY, I CAN'T
N-NO WAY...
I MEAN, IT'S GREAT THAT YOU THINK THAT WAY
BUT RIGHT NOW, UH I'M DEVOTED TO BOXING...
...

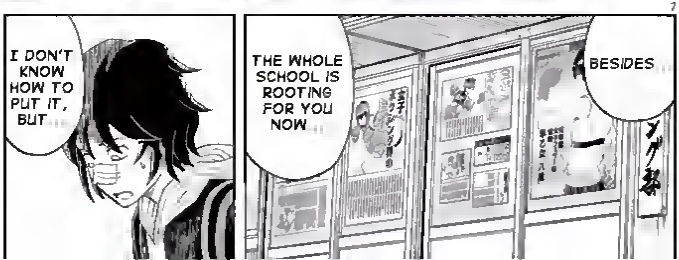
NO...
YOU ALSO DON'T HAVE A CRUSH, RIGHT?
HUH...? NO, I DON'T
SATORU-KUN, YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?
SURE...!?
YOU ALSO DON'T GET ALONG WITH ANY GIRLS IN CLASS, NOR ARE YOU PART OF A SOCIAL CLIQUE, RIGHT...?
N-NO, WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY, YAE-SAN...
IS IF YOU KEEP GOING ON ABOUT STUFF LIKE THIS
SO, WHY THEN...?

関東高等学校
ボクシング大会
YOU'RE SERIOUSLY GOING TO LOSE YOUR MATCH!
早 優女前
LAST YEAR'S GIRLS FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMPION
SAOTOME YAE
八重
一級


SAOTOME YAE
(17)
ゞっ…

LAST YEAR'S GIRLS FEATHER-WEIGHT CHAMPION
……
ANYWAY, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, CONFESSING RIGHT BEFORE THE FINALS…
前年度女子フェザー級優勝
早乙女 八重

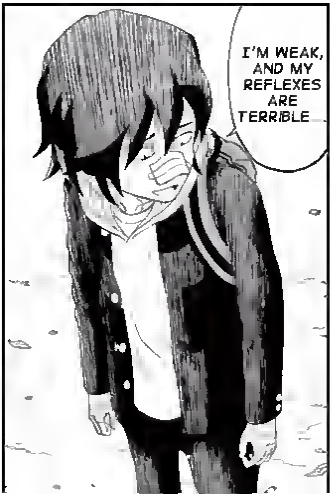
SO IF IT HAD BEEN BEFORE THE SEMI-FINALS, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OKAY?
ドキ
ドキ
THAT WOULDN'T MAKE IT ANY BETTER!!

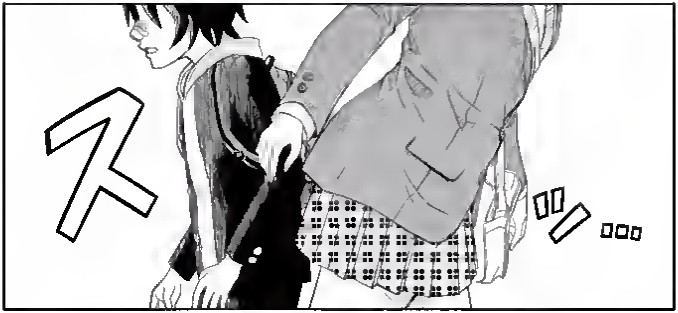

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT, BUT…
THE WHOLE SCHOOL IS ROOTING FOR YOU NOW…
BESIDES…

B... BESIDES,
I'M THINKING OF QUITTING BOXING.

SOME-THING LIKE LOVE,
SOMEONE LIKE YOU DOESN'T REALLY NEED IT, RIGHT?

BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT, YAE-SAN.
UNLIKE ME, WITH YOUR TALENT YOU CAN KEEP GETTING STRONGER AND STRONGER.


I'M WEAK, AND MY REFLEXES ARE TERRIBLE.


ス
ooo

……

YA YAE-SAN ?
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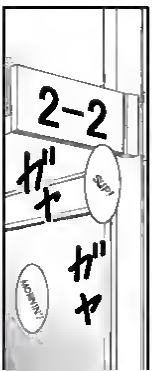
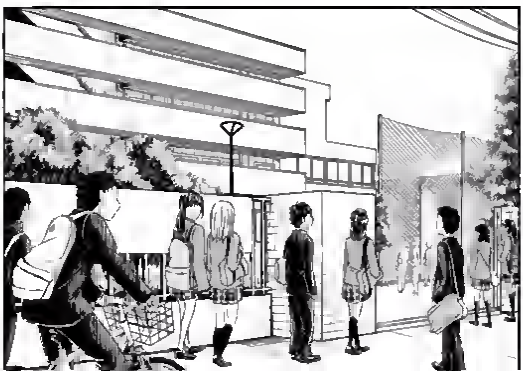
ガッ
ガッ


2-2
ガヤ
SUP!
ガヤ
MORNIN'

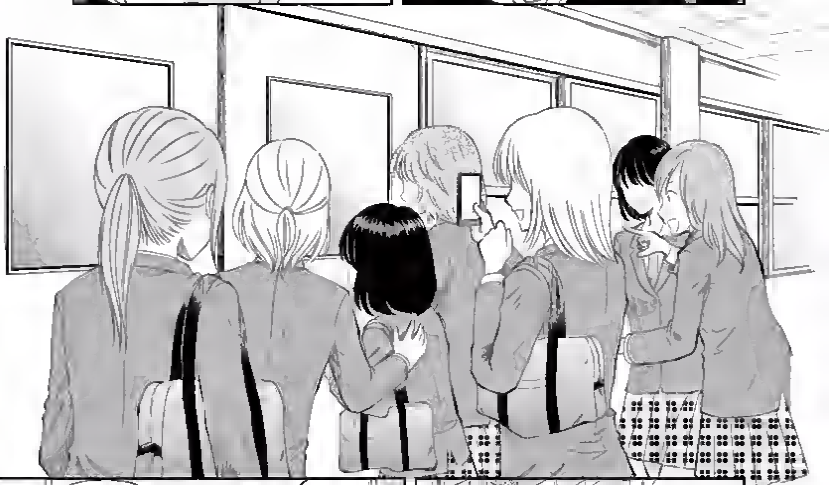


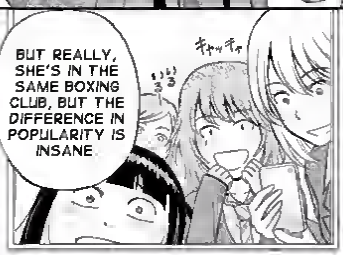
AND FROM THERE, SLOWLY MOVE THE TIP FORWARD
GUH
YEAH, JUST LIKE THAT, PUT THE BAT BEHIND YOUR BACK
WOAH, THAT'S AWESOME
WOAH! YOU WEREN'T KIDDING THEY FEEL GREAT!
SO? DO YOUR MUSCLES FEEL LOOSENED UP?
GUH. GUU UOO OO OHH!!
DID YOU LEARN THAT FROM ONE OF THOSE TRAINING BOOKS OF YOURS AGAIN?

WHO CARES? YOUR KNOWLEDGE IS ALREADY THE BEST!
BUT YOU HAVEN'T WON A SINGLE MATCH, RIGHT?

YOU REALLY LIKE BOXING, DON'TCHA?
YE-YEAH...

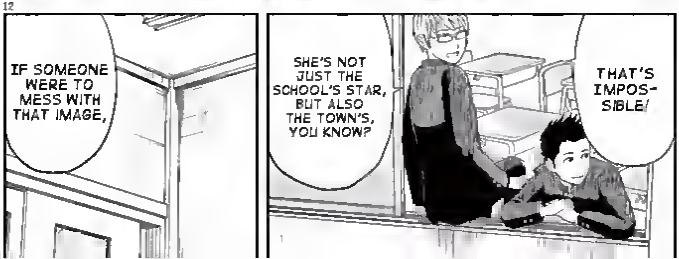
フーン



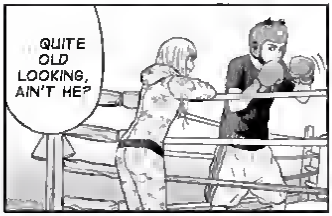

BUT REALLY, SHE'S IN THE SAME BOXING CLUB, BUT THE DIFFERENCE IN POPULARITY IS INSANE.
キャッキャ

OH! LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER MORNING WHERE THEY GATHER AROUND NEXT DOOR!

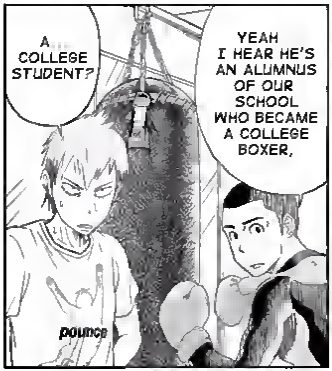
IF SHE WINS THE NEXT MATCH, SHE'LL BE THE TWO TIME CHAMPION.
SHE'S OUR SCHOOL'S GLIMMER OF HOPE
SAOTOME YAE
ピクッ
WH WHAT!?
SAY, SATORU DOES SAOTOME HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
SAOTOME, HUH. SHE'S A BIT SCARY LOOKING, BUT SHE SURE IS HOT, HUH.

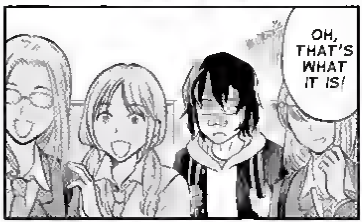

IF SOMEONE WERE TO MESS WITH THAT IMAGE,
SHE'S NOT JUST THE SCHOOL'S STAR, BUT ALSO THE TOWN'S, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

I... IS THAT SO...?
HA HA! FOR SURE!
THEY'D BE BANISHED FROM THE TOWN FOR SURE!
HAAH... GOING TO PRACTICE TODAY ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY...
!?
ボクシング部
THERE'S NO NEED TO HOLD BACK JUST CHARGE IN WHEN YOU HEAR THE BELL!
THERE ARE THREE TWO MINUTE ROUNDS...
SO, THE RULES ARE THE SAME AS A MATCH.


QUITE OLD LOOKING, AIN'T HE?

GOTCHA


A COLLEGE STUDENT?
YEAH I HEAR HE'S AN ALUMNUS OF OUR SCHOOL WHO BECAME A COLLEGE BOXER,
pounce


OH, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

I SAID IT JUST WOULDN'T BE FAIR, BUT COACH SHIOYA DIDN'T CARE
THE HELL IS THAT WOMAN THINK-ING

14

TODAY, THEY'RE TREATING IT LIKE A REAL MATCH....

YAE-SAN'S SPARRING, THAT IS...!
ALRIGHT! GET IN THE RING, SAOTOME!
...
LISTENING? THE RULES ARE THE SAME AS A REAL MATCH.
THREE 2-MINUTE ROUNDS, WITH 1-MINUTE BREAKS IN-BETWEEN
15

八重さん…
YAE-SAN...
ヒ°
イ
イ
イ
イ
!!

ガゴガガガゴ

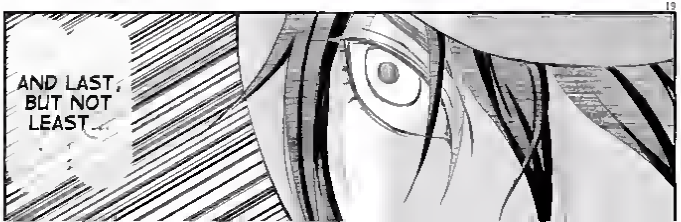
JUST AS COACH TOLD HIM, HE'S GOING STRAIGHT FOR THE KILL FROM THE START!
ゴ
オオ
OOH! THERE GOES THE COLLEGE KID!

THE GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR OUR ENTIRE STUDENT BODY

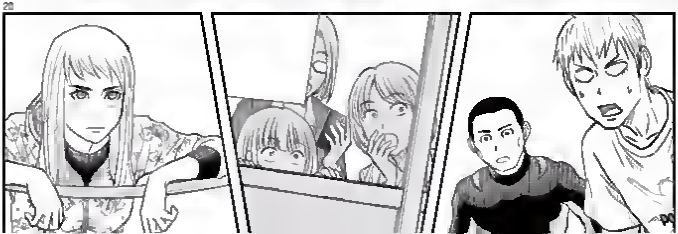
YAE-SAN

一学期中間
成績順位
1、早乙女 八重
英語Ⅱ…94
数学Ⅰ…98
現代文…95
世界史…93
世 佑都
…92
…95
…90
…94
舞
…91
…90
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

WITH A BEAUTIFUL FIGURE.


AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST...

STRENGTH FAR BEYOND THAT OF A NORMAL PERSON!!



UH
UH...
.....
SAO-
TOMEE!
KYAA! SAOTOME-SAN IS AMAZING!
WOAAH! ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
IT LOOKS LIKE IT JUST ENDED IN THREE HITS!

YOU OKAY?
HAHAAHA. HOW ABOUT THAT, YOU GUYS?
UGH

DODGING YOUR OPPONENT'S RIGHT AND GOING STRAIGHT FOR HIS BODY! THAT GABVE ME GOOSEBUMPS!
YOU HAD ME SHAKING! THAT'S MY SUPERSTAR!

JUST LOOK AT THIS EXPRES-SION.

22

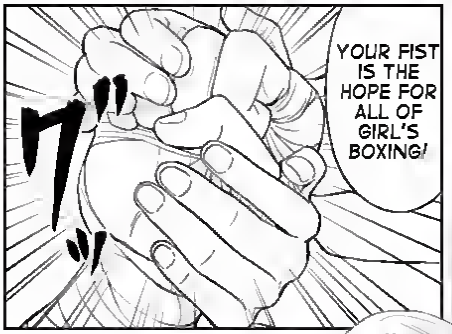
YAE-SAN

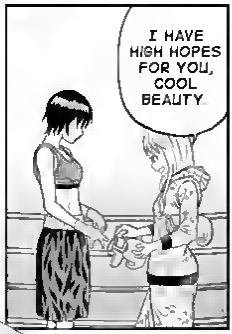
.....

THIS SOUR LOOK IS ALL SHE GIVES AS SHE WINS!

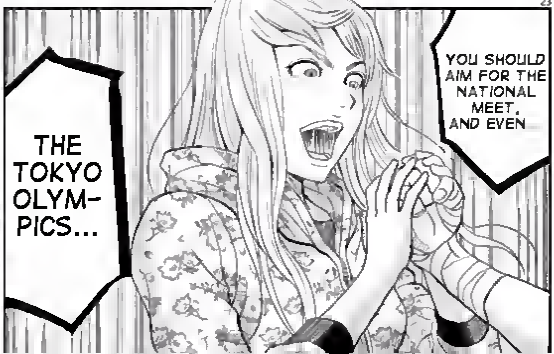
EVEN THE AVERAGE GUY WOULD BE SCARED TO APPROACH YOU!

THAT'S THE COOL BEAUTY FOR YOU.

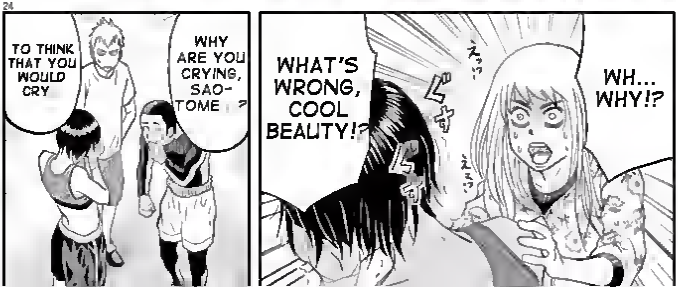

YOUR FIST IS THE HOPE FOR ALL OF GIRL'S BOXING!


I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU, COOL BEAUTY.

C-COACH SHIOYA


THE TOKYO OLYM-PICS...
YOU SHOULD AIM FOR THE NATIONAL MEET, AND EVEN

EEE EEE HH!?
THE... THE COOL BEAUTY IS CRYING!!


TO THINK THAT YOU WOULD CRY
WHY ARE YOU CRYING, SAO-TOME!?
WHAT'S WRONG, COOL BEAUTY!?
WH... WHY!?

EVEN IF YOU CALL HER THAT, I DON'T THINK IT'S GONNA TO DO ANY-THING U
IS THE COLD BOTHERING YOU, COOL BEAUTY!?
ARE YOU COLD!?
COA-CH SHIO-YA...
YOUR NOSE IS RUNNING, COOL BEAUTY!?
HEY, SOMEONE! ANYONE! GIVE COOL BEAUTY SOMETHING TO WEAR!
IF I CRY, COULD I GET TREATED LIKE THAT, TOO?
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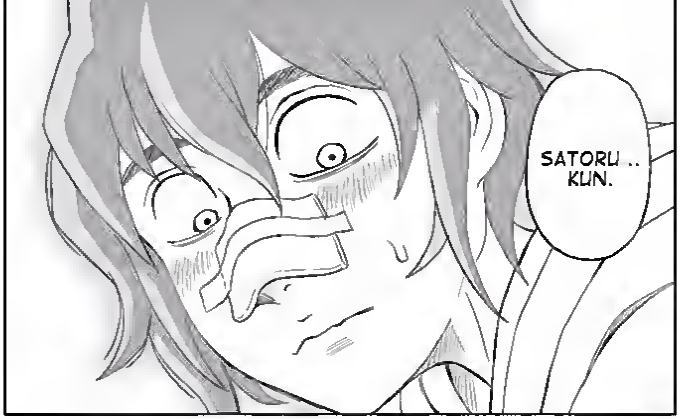
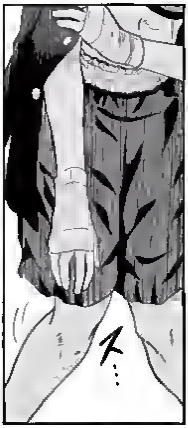
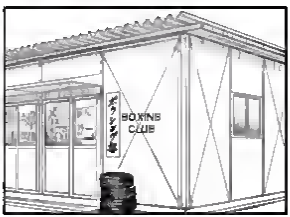
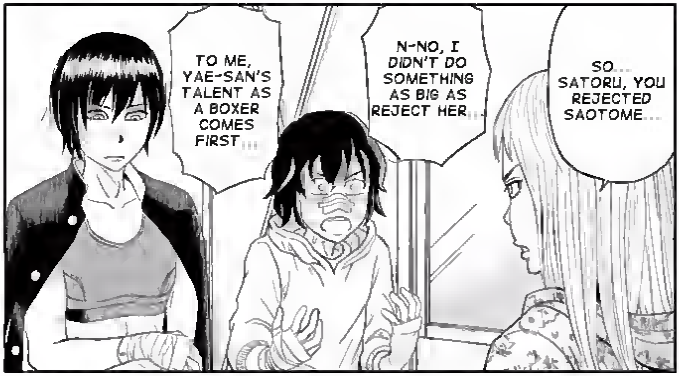

SATORU .. KUN.

COOL BEAU-TY!?
N-NOW YOU'RE LAUGHING...?
.....

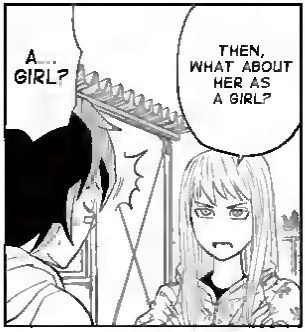


I SEE...

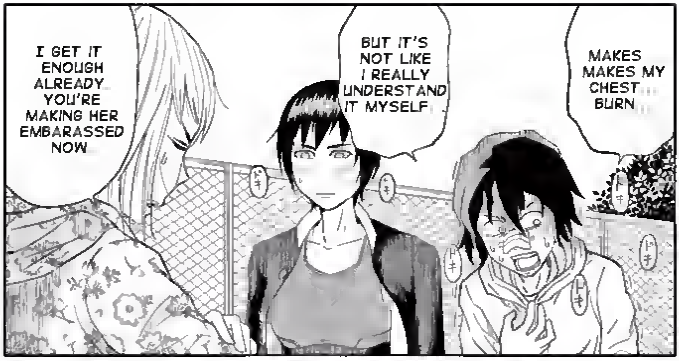

BOXING CLUB

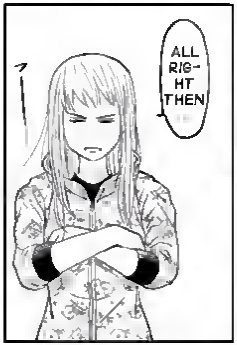

SO... SATORU, YOU REJECTED SAOTOME...
N-NO, I DIDN'T DO SOMETHING AS BIG AS REJECT HER...
TO ME, YAE-SAN'S TALENT AS A BOXER COMES FIRST...

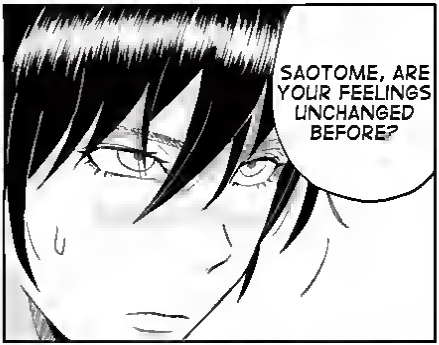
I GUESS IT'S EMBARASSING TO SAY, BUT THIS IS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH STUFF LIKE THIS...
TO... TO BE HONEST, HOW I FEEL EXACTLY,
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND, BUT THIS, SOMEHOW...


A... GIRL?
THEN, WHAT ABOUT HER AS A GIRL?

UH... UMM, ABOUT THAT...


I GET IT ENOUGH ALREADY YOU'RE MAKING HER EMBARASSED NOW
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF
MAKES MAKES MY CHEST BURN


ALL RIG-HT THEN

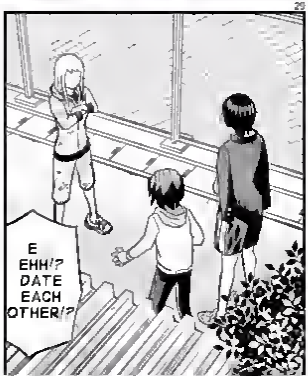

SAOTOME, ARE YOUR FEELINGS UNCHANGED BEFORE?

AND ALONG-SIDE THAT
T-TRAINER?

SATORU FROM THIS DAY ONWARD, YOU'LL BE SAOTOME'S TRAINER!!
RATHER THAN JUST CONSIDERING THIS AS A TEACHER, I'VE ALSO CONSIDERED THIS AS A FAN

YOU TWO CAN SECRETLY DATE EACH OTHER

HELL IF I KNOW FIND OUT YOUR-SELF!
W-W-WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO!?
BY... BY "DATE", WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?


E EHH!? DATE EACH OTHER!?

RIGHT? YAE-SA...
E-EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, IT'S STILL A BIT SUDDEN
HOW ABOUT IT, YOU TWO?
ボクシング
しぃ
.....
THE... THEN, I'LL BE IN YOUR CARE
ボクシン

SAOTOME
SENSEI,
KAKAKUSU
vol.1